

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

By the present amendment claims 4 and 6-15 are cancelled, claims 1 and 5 are amended, and new claim 16 is added. Hence, claims 1-3, 5, and 16 are pending in the application.

Rejection of Claims 1-3, 6-9, and 12-15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

The Office Action of January 19, 2007 rejected claims 1-3, 6-9, and 12-15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,599,293 to Tague, et al (hereinafter “Tague”). It is respectfully submitted that as amended, claim 1 patentably defines over Tague, and is therefore allowable.

As amended, claim 1 substantially incorporates the subject matter of claims 4 and 6. Since the Examiner did not reject claim 4 as being anticipated by Tague, it is respectfully submitted that as amended, claim 1 patentably defines over Tague, and is therefore allowable.

Claims 2-3 and 5 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for the same reasons claim 1 is allowable, and for the specific limitations recited therein.

Claims 6-9 and 12-15 have been cancelled and thus need not be addressed.

Rejection of Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 10, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Office Action of January 19, 2007 also rejected claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 10, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,638,997 to Hawkins, et al (hereinafter “Hawkins”). It is respectfully submitted that as amended, claim 1 patentably defines over Hawkins, and is therefore allowable.

As amended, claim 1 substantially incorporates the subject matter of claims 4 and 6.

Since the Examiner did not reject claim 6 as being anticipated by Hawkins, it is respectfully submitted that as amended, claim 1 patentably defines over Hawkins, and is therefore allowable.

Claim 5 depends from claim 1 and is allowable for the same reasons claim 1 is allowable, and for the specific limitations recited therein.

Claims 4, 7, 10, and 11 have been cancelled and thus need not be addressed.

New Claims

New claim 16 depends from claim 1. Since it is believed that claim 1, as amended, is allowable, it is respectfully submitted that new claim 16 is likewise allowable.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,



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